

Application No.: 08/868,972

Docket No.: 16159/133001; P2287

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner indicating that claims 9, 13-14, 26, and 30 are allowed.

Allowed Claims

Claims 9 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, including the base claim and any intervening claims, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 14 is dependent from allowable claim 13, and thus is allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 26 and 30 are allowed and have thus not been amended by this reply. Thus, claims 9, 13-14, 26, and 30 are now all in allowable form. Claims 9, 13, and 14 are no longer incomplete and Applicant requests that any objections to these claim should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/133001; P2287).

Dated: December 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Robert P. Lord
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
Osha & May L.L.P.
1221 McKinney, Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

81751_1.DOC